Remarks

This REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION and REPLY is in response to the Office Action mailed June 18, 2009 and the Advisory Action mailed September 3, 2009.

I.   Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Office Action mailed June 18, 2009, Claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, 15-16, 18-21, and 23-28 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 20 and 23 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, 15-16, 18-21, and 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Amirisetty et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,152,090, hereafter Amirisetty).

II.   Summary of Applicant's Amendments

The present Reply amends Claims 1, 11 and 20; and adds Claim 29, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, 15-16, 18-21, and 23-29. Reconsideration of the Application, in view of the following comments, is respectfully requested.

III.   Claim Objections

In the Office Action mailed June 18, 2009, Claims 20 and 23 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 20 and 23 were amended by Applicant's Reply filed August 18, 2009 and the amendments were indicated as being entered by the Advisory Action mailed September 3, 2009. Applicant believes Claims 20 and 23 now comply with the Examiner's objections.

IV.   Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action mailed June 18, 2009, Claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, 15-16, 18-21, and 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Amirisetty (U.S. Patent No. 7,152,090).

Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

> 1.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium including software system applications for providing access to web services, comprising:
>   a protocol adapter that
>   intercepts a web service invoke request wherein the invoke request is a web service message that has a message format and includes parameters,

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> converts the message format of the invoke request,
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> creates an initial message context including the invoke request, a placeholder for a response, and information about a transport, and
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> routes the invoke request with the initial message context to an appropriate web services container based on a target of the invoke request;
>
> a container driver, at the web services container, that receives the invoke request and initial message context from the protocol adapter;
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> a plurality of interceptors, utilized by the container driver to access inbound and outbound web service messages;
>
> wherein the container driver forwards the initial message context to one of the plurality of interceptors that
>
> receives the initial message context which includes a plurality of parts, wherein each part includes corresponding content,
>
> modifies the content of one or more of the parts of the initial message context to produce modified message context, and
>
> returns the modified message context to the container driver;
>
> an invocation handler that receives the modified message context from said container driver, passes the parameters from the modified message context to the target of the request, processes values returned from the target, and passes the values to the container driver, such that the container driver can formulate a response to the invoke request; and
>
> an invocation context that stores context data for processing the invoke request including a conversation ID, a message sequence number, and a security token, wherein the invocation context is an inheritable, thread local object which is accessible to the protocol adapter, interceptors and invocation handler, and wherein the invocation handler controls read/write access to the invocation context.

Amirisetty discloses a metadata-aware Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) framework for an application server environment. (Abstract). An implementation of a metadata-aware CCI adapter 102 may provide unified CCI (e.g. J2EE CA-suggested CCI) for client interaction across disparate connectors 114. Adaptor 102 may also provide an in-memory, hierarchical data representation object for interaction. Adaptor 102 may be metadata-aware and may interact with the metadata repository 130 to get the definitions of connection specifications, interactions, interaction specifications, records, etc. (Column 8, line 63 to Column 9, line 3). Amirisetty further discloses that the metadata-aware CCI adapter 102 may intercept an incoming high-level function call (input data object 108 A). Input data object 108 A may include a document, for example an XML document. In one embodiment, the document may be in a high-level dialect, for example a high-level XML dialect. Transformer 104 may then drive a sequence of transformations 202 on the input data object 108 A as per one or more metadata definitions of the function call. The sequence of transformations 202 may result in a secondary data object 108 B which may include an action flow 204 of connector-level invocations expressed in a flow language and a list of connector-level CCI invocations 206 referenced by

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flow 204. (Column 13, lines 28-40).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a protocol adapter that intercepts a web service invoke request wherein the invoke request is a web service message that has a message format and includes parameters, converts the message format of the invoke request, creates an initial message context including the invoke request, a placeholder for a response, and information about a transport, and routes the invoke request with the initial message context to an appropriate web services container based on a target of the invoke request.

As described above, in Amirisetty a CCI adapter appears to intercept a high level function call and perform a series of low level function calls based on metadata associated with that function call. However, Claim 1, as amended, recites a protocol adapter that routes the invoke request with the initial message context to an appropriate web services container based on a target of the invoke request. Applicant respectfully submits that Amirisetty does not appear to disclose or render obvious a protocol adapter, as recited by Claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, further recites a plurality of interceptors, utilized by the container driver to access inbound and outbound web service messages; wherein the container driver forwards the initial message context to one of the plurality of interceptors that receives the initial message context which includes a plurality of parts, wherein each part includes corresponding content, modifies the content of one or more of the parts of the initial message context to produce modified message context, and returns the modified message context to the container driver.

Applicant respectfully submits that, based on the above, Amirisetty appears to disclose a CCI adapter that can intercept a high level function call (described as an object) and create new objects. However, the CCI adapter in Amirisetty does not appear to modify message context and return the modified message context to the container driver. Applicant respectfully submits that Amirisetty does not appear to disclose or render obvious a plurality of interceptors, as recited by Claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, additionally recites an invocation context that stores context data for processing the invoke request including a conversation ID, a message sequence number, and a security token, wherein the invocation context is an inheritable, thread local object which is accessible to the protocol adapter, interceptors and invocation handler, and wherein the invocation handler controls read/write access to the invocation context.

Although Amirisetty appears to disclose a metadata repository, the metadata repository appears to be accessible only to the CCI adapter. In the embodiment recited by Claim 1, however, the invocation context is an inheritable, thread local object which is accessible to the

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protocol adapter, interceptors and invocation handler, and wherein the invocation handler controls read/write access to the invocation context. Applicant respectfully submits that Amirisetty does not disclose or render obvious an invocation context, as recited by Claim 1.

In view of the above comments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 20

The comments provided above with respect to Claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. Claims 11 and 20 have been amended similarly to more clearly recite the embodiments therein. For similar reasons as provided above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 11 and 20 are likewise neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 2-3, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21, and 23-28

Claims 2-3, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21, and 23-28 depend from and include all of the features of Claims 1, 11, or 20. Claims 2-3, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21, and 23-28 have not been addressed separately herein; however, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable at least as depending from an allowable independent claim, and further in view of the comments provided above. Reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

V.   Additional Amendments

Claim 29 has been newly added by the present Reply. Applicant respectfully requests that new Claim 29 be included in the Application and considered therewith.

VI.   Request for Interview

In the event the above remarks fail to place the case in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests the opportunity to interview with the Examiner at his convenience, and prior to the issuance of a subsequent Office Action, to assist in expediting prosecution. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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